

Getting a Grip on God's Word

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Sept. 20th

There are many roles & responsibilities God created us to accomplish, but they basically boil down to Recognizing His Glory (*Who He is*) and Responding to His Grace. (*What He's done /Does*)

This realization forms the basis of the Great Commandment (Mt 22:35-40)

and enables us to reflect and reproduce them (Glory & Grace) in and through our lives.

(Mt 5:14-16; Eph. 2:8-10; Phil. 2:13-16; Heb. 11:6) ➔ *The Great Commission (Mt 28:18-20)*

Satan seeks to seduce and/or sidetrack from God's plan and purposes by enticing us into pursuing his, ours, or other's purposes and priorities. (2 Cor 4:4; 2 Cor 11:2; Col 2:6)

He has powerful allies in this "Holy War" including: Our own selfish/sinful nature (Ro. 7; Gal. 5:17);

This seductive world (James 3:13-16; 1 Jn 2:15,16); A myriad of fallen (deceitful) angels who

"Make war" against the saints. (Rev. 12; Eph 6:10-18)

To combat these powerful enemies, God gives us mighty resources to enable us to accomplish His Will.

(2 Pt 2:3,4) *"His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that has called us to glory (doxa: glory, honor) and virtue:"* (are'tē: valor)

Our God given allies in this Holy War include:

1. His Holy Spirit (Ro 8:15; Gal. 4:6; 5:16; Ro 8:9; 1 Cor 2:12; 1 Jn 4:4)

A. His roles include:

- 1) Regenerating us. (John 3:3-8; Titus 3:5)
- 2) Reproving us: (Jn 16:7-11)
- 3) Teaching us: (Jn 14:26; 16:13-14; 1 Cor 2:9-13)
- 4) Indwelling/Sealing/ Empowering us. (Eph. 4:30; Gal. 4:4-6; John 3:1-8)

B. Our Responsibilities to him include:

- 1) Listening/Learning. (7x in Rev. 2,3)
- 2) Repenting/ Renewing (Ro. 12:1,2; Titus 3:5; Rev. 3:19,20)
- 3) Submitting (Gal. 5:16-22; Heb. 3:7-11)
- 4) Cooperating/Partnering (Ro 12:1,2; Eph. 4:30; Rev 3:19,20)

2. His Word. (Ps 19:7-11; 2 Tim 3:16,17) *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."*

A. Reveals God's Will! (Ro 12:2; Ps. 119:105; Mt 22:29; John 5:39)

B. It's a critical part of our arsenal for recognizing and resisting Satan. Eph. 6:10-18

- 1) It's what Jesus used in Mt. 4
- 2) It's part of spiritual armor! Eph. 6:10-18; (See John 15:3; 7:17; Ps 119:9; Heb 4:12)

Eleazar was one of King David's Mighty men. 2 Samuel 23:10 tells us: *"He arose, and smote the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand clave unto the sword: and the LORD wrought a great victory that day; ..."*

Ephesians 6:17 tells us to *"take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:"*

Just as all five fingers are required for a firm grip on a physical sword, so there are five "fingers" or disciplines required in order to have a "Great Grasp" on the Spiritual Sword.

C. How to get a grip on “The Sword of the Spirit”

1) “Hear” it. Ro. 10:17 *“faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”* (See 1 Jn 5:4)

Rev. 1:3 *“Blessed (are) ... they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep (tereo: guard, attend to) those things which are written therein:”*

Many Bible APPs will read to you! <https://www.youversion.com/bible-app>

2) Read it. Rev 1:3 *“Blessed is he that readeth, (anaginōs’kō: to know, recognize, again!) and ... keep those things which are written therein:”*

In Dt. 17:18-20 God commanded Israel’s Kings to copy his word and: *“read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law ..., to do them”*

“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches...” (Rev 2:7,11,17,29; 3:6,13,22)

In Lk 8:4-15 Jesus warned that the condition of the soil (soul) greatly impacts the reception of the “seed” of God’s Word! Vs 18 *“Take heed therefore how ye hear:”*

3) Study it. 2 Tim 2:15 *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*

According to Barna research, 37% of Christian pastors in the US possess a biblical worldview.

Only about 9% of self-identified (professing) Christians in the U.S. hold a biblical worldview.

Only 4% of the general population of Americans do!

Remember Jesus’ warning about the *“Blind leading the blind”* Mt 15:13

That’s why it’s critical that we become like the Berean believers who: *“were more noble..., in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”* Acts 17:11

Here are some Bible Study tools readily available on line or in APP form:

Logos: <https://www.logos.com/>

APP: <https://www.logos.com/bible-app>

Blue Letter Bible: <https://www.blueletterbible.org/>

APP: <https://www.blueletterbible.org/apps-tools.cfm>

Conclusion: 1 Thes. 2:13 *“when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.”*



How do you “receive” God’s Word?
Are you letting it “effectually work” in you?

Eph 6:17 *“and take... the Sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”*

**How Great is your Grip
on God’s Word?**